

REMARKS

Claims 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17-20, 22-23, 29, 31-32, 35, 38, 40-41, 44, 48-49, 53-54, 58, 60-61, 65, 67-68, and 71 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-11, 13-16, 25-28, 33-34, 36-37, 39, 42-43, 45-47, 52, 55-57, 62-64, 66, 69-70 have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Claims 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17-21, 22-24, 29-32, 35, 38, 40-41, 44, 48-51, 53-54, 58-61, 65, 67-68, and 71 are pending.

Applicant's representative gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17-24, 29-32, 38, 40-41, 44, 48-51, 53-54, 58-61, 65, 67-68, and 71. Claims 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17-20, 22-23, 29, 31-32, 38, 40-41, 44, 48-49, 53-54, 58, 60-61, 65, 67-68, and 71 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the limitations of their former base and intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17-21, 22-24, 29-32, 35, 38, 40-41, 44, 48-51, 53-54, 58-61, 65, 67-68, and 71 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Christopher S. Chow

Registration No.: 46,493

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant